

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 6, 2010
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2006
AUTHOR: J. Hill

BILL SUMMARY: Governmental Linguistics

This bill would require until January 1, 2015, the California Research Bureau (CRB) to do the following:

- Survey state agency documents to determine the extent to which existing documents use language that suggests a particular religious faith or sect.
- Consult with experts to identify religiously neutral and inclusive terms to replace existing language and identify any legal ramifications of replacing specified language in state agency documents.
- Identify the fiscal and budgetary ramifications of requiring state government entities to review future agency documents to ensure that religiously neutral and inclusive language is being used.
- Submit a report based on its finding to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Judiciary Committees of the Assembly and Senate.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Staff of the CRB indicate the requirements of this bill are vague, overly expansive, and out of scope with current CRB capabilities. CRB does not have an analysis or fiscal estimate of this bill at this time. CRB indicates that they cannot estimate the fiscal impact without a better understanding of the scope of work required. This bill would increase workload and costs at CRB and other state entities. The total cost of this bill is unknown but expected to be significant.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it would result in additional state costs which are not included in the 2010-11 Budget proposal. Additionally, the need for this measure is unclear and as the CRB has indicated, its provisions are somewhat vague.

CRB is a program within the State Library. CRB indicates the requirements of this bill are vague, overly expansive, and out of scope with current CRB programming. We note CRB has no legal staff and the provision requiring CRB to identify legal ramifications is out of scope with its capabilities.

This bill would require until January 1, 2015, the CRB to do the following:

- Survey state agency documents to determine the extent to which existing documents use language that suggests a particular religious faith or sect.
- Consult with experts to identify religiously neutral and inclusive terms to replace existing language and identify any legal ramifications of replacing specified language in state agency documents.
- Identify the fiscal and budgetary ramifications of requiring state government entities to review future agency documents to ensure that religiously neutral and inclusive language is being used.
- Submit a report based on its finding to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Judiciary Committees of the Assembly and Senate.

Analyst/Principal (0212)J. Osborn	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Zlatko Theodorovic	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

J. Hill

April 6, 2010

AB 2006

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Code
6120/CA St Libry	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary			-----		0001
9901/Var Depts	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary			-----		0001